



Northeast Multispecies Information Sheet

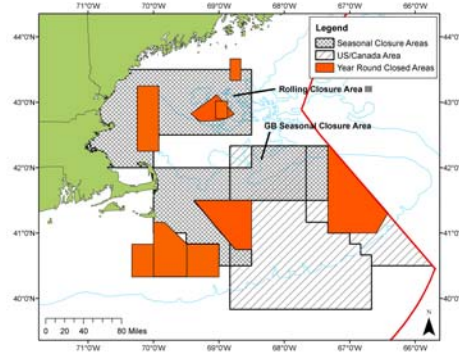
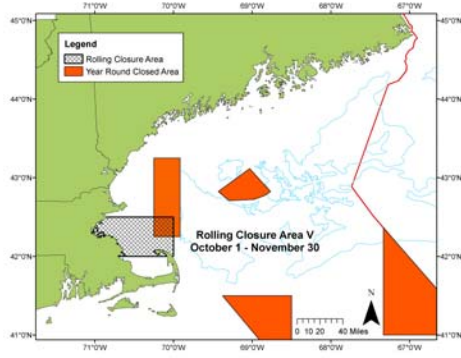
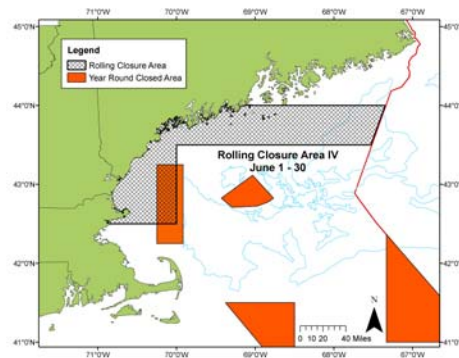
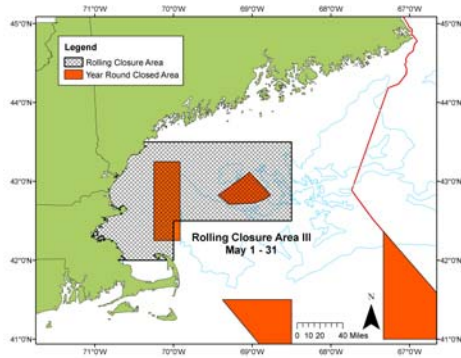
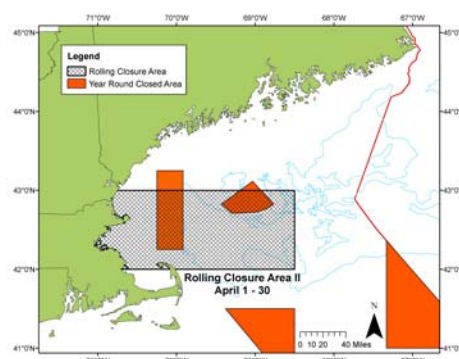
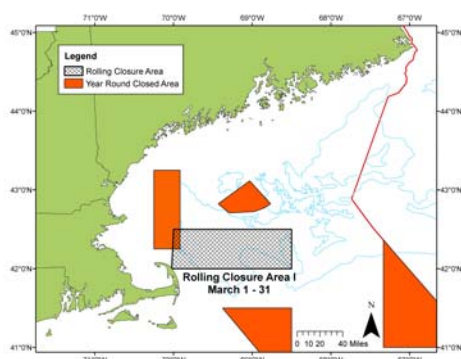
Closed Area Regulations



This summary is not a substitute for the regulations; rather it provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements. You must read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how this fishery is managed. This information sheet will be updated when regulations are revised. The regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR 648.81.

This information sheet summarizes the Northeast (NE) multispecies regulations pertaining to:

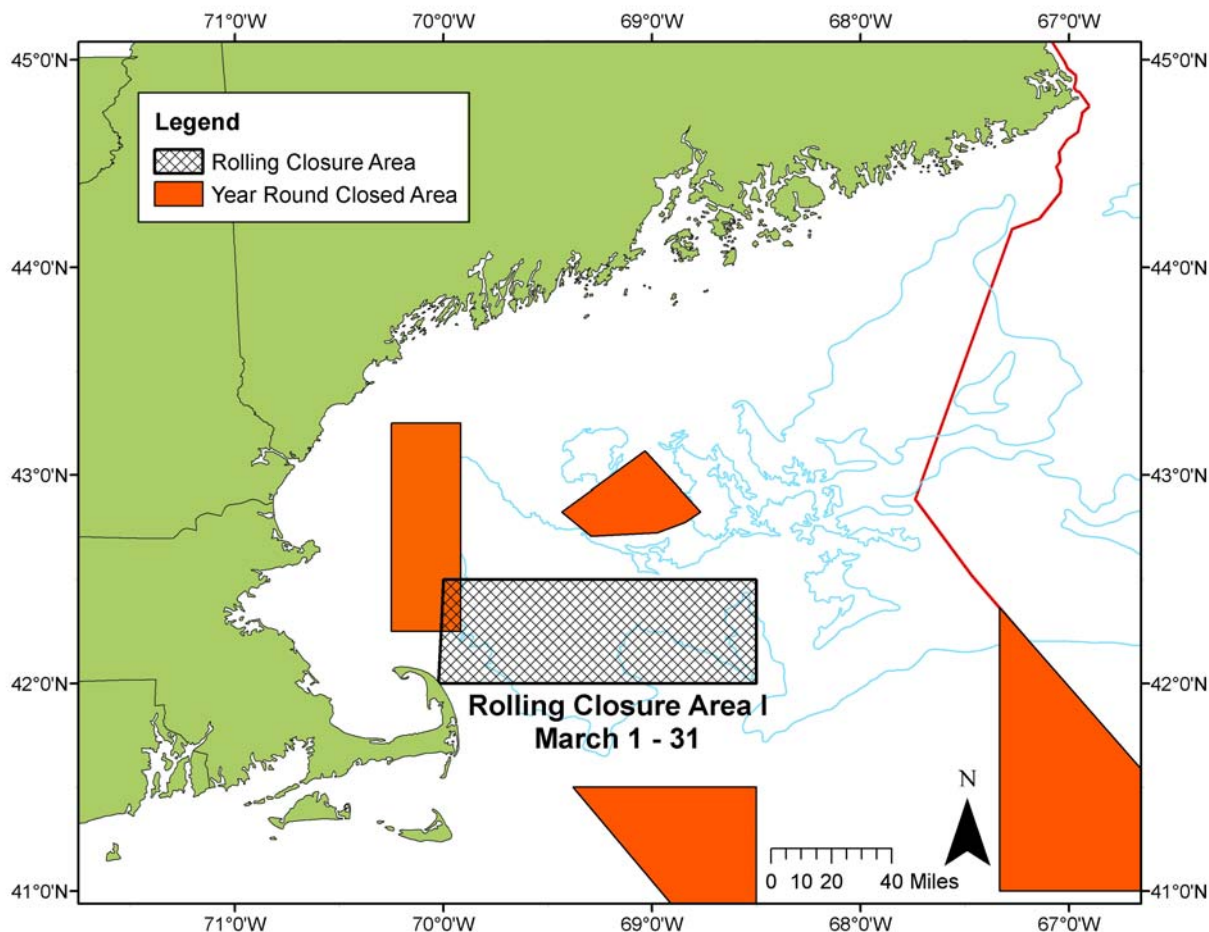
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GULF OF MAINE (GOM) ROLLING CLOSURE AREAS AND GEORGES BANK (GB) SEASONAL CLOSURE AREA

The GOM Rolling Closure Areas and the GB Seasonal Area depicted below are closed to all fishing vessels with the following exemptions: Vessels that do not have a Federal NE multispecies permit and are fishing exclusively in state waters; charter and party vessels*; recreational vessels; vessels fishing with spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, mid-water trawls, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates); and sea scallop dredge gear when under a scallop day-at-sea (DAS), or lawfully in a scallop dredge exemption area.

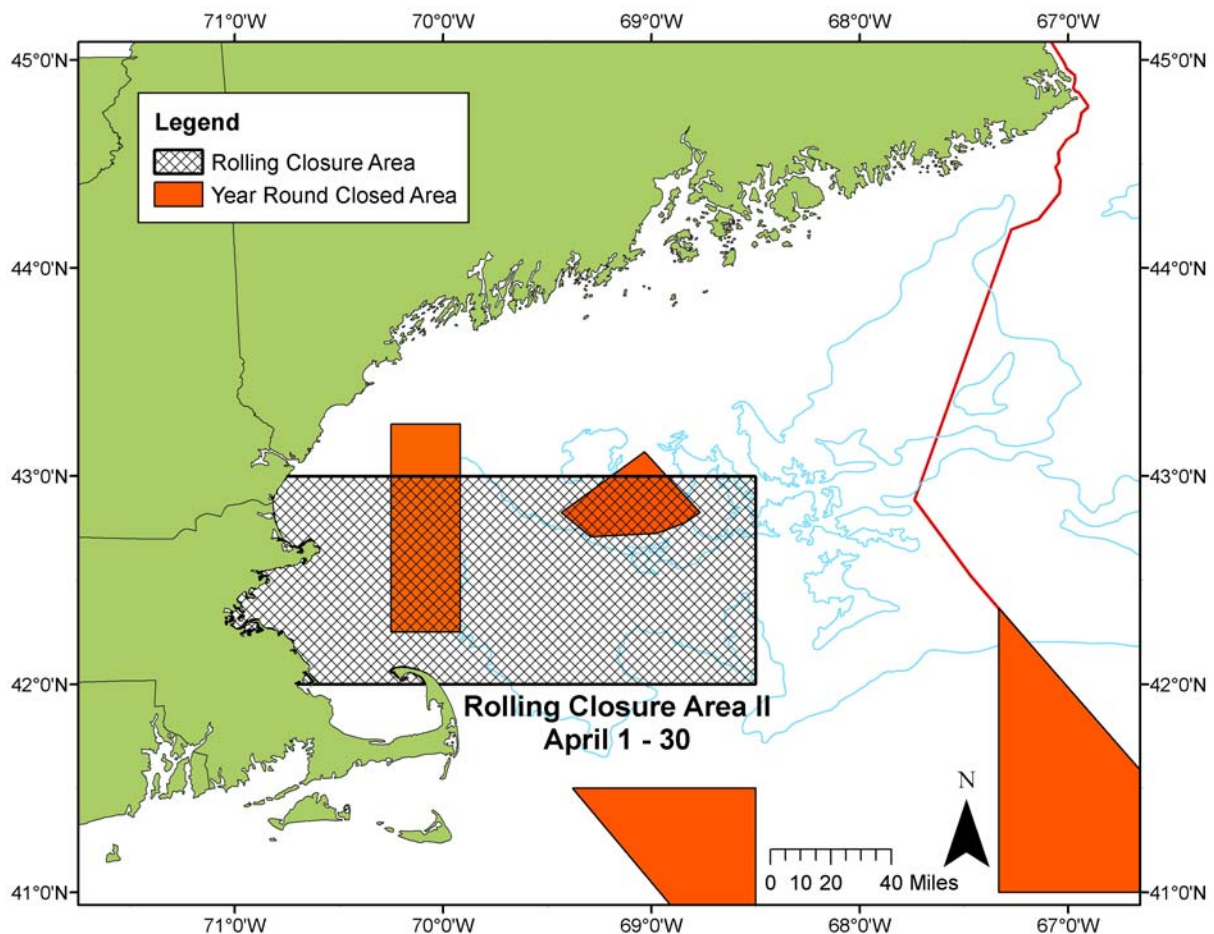
*Charter and party vessels may fish in the GOM Rolling Closure Areas provided they have a Letter of Authorization from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas. A letter of authorization is valid from the date of enrollment through the duration of the closure or 3 months duration, whichever is greater, and is available by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370 x6438.



Rolling Closure Area I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area I		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM3	42° 00'	(1)
GM5	42° 00'	68° 30'
GM6	42° 30'	68° 30'
GM23	42° 30'	70° 00'
GM3	42° 00'	(1)

(1) Cape Cod Shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean



Rolling Closure Area II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area II

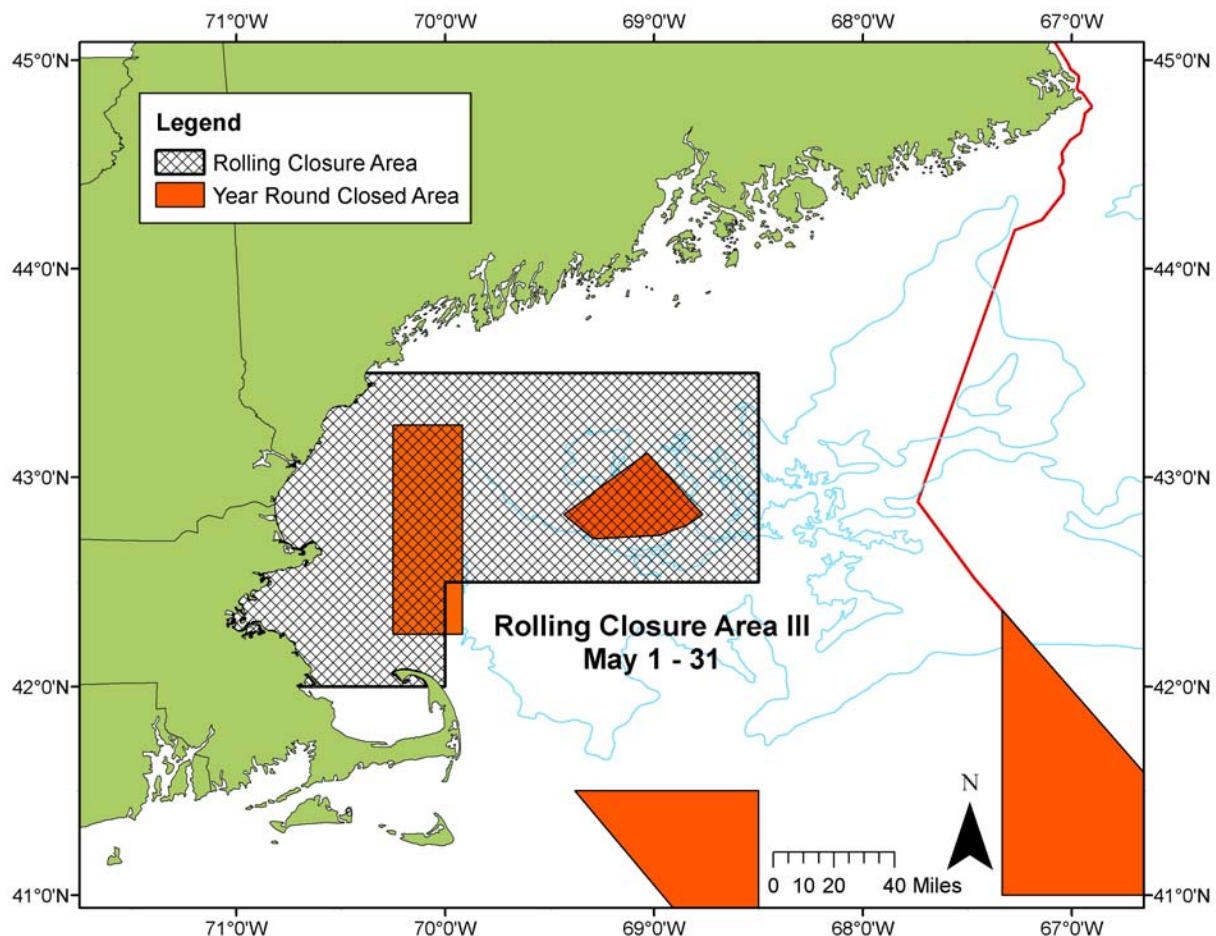
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM1	42° 00'	(1)
GM2	42° 00'	(2)
GM3	42° 00'	(3)
GM5	42° 00'	68° 30'
GM13	43° 00'	68° 30'
GM9	43° 00'	(4)
GM1	42° 00'	(1)

(1) Massachusetts shoreline.

(2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

(3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

(4) New Hampshire shoreline.

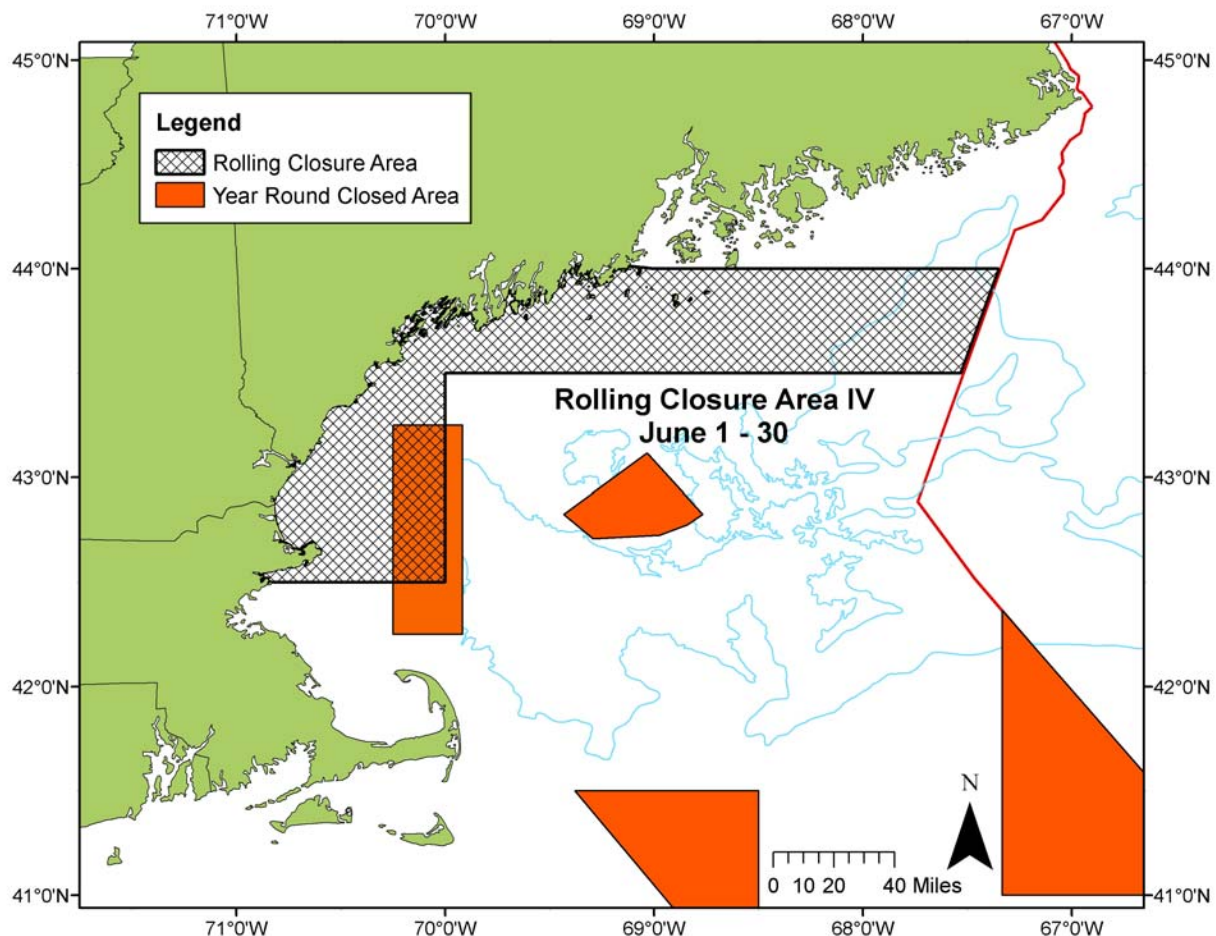


Rolling Closure Area III is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area III

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM1	42° 00'	(1)
GM2	42° 00'	(2)
GM3	42° 00'	(3)
GM4	42° 00'	70° 00'
GM23	42° 30'	70° 00'
GM6	42° 30'	68° 30'
GM14	43° 30'	68° 30'
GM10	43° 30'	(4)
GM1	42° 00'	(1)

- (1) Massachusetts shoreline.
- (2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.
- (3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.
- (4) Maine shoreline.



Rolling Closure Area IV is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

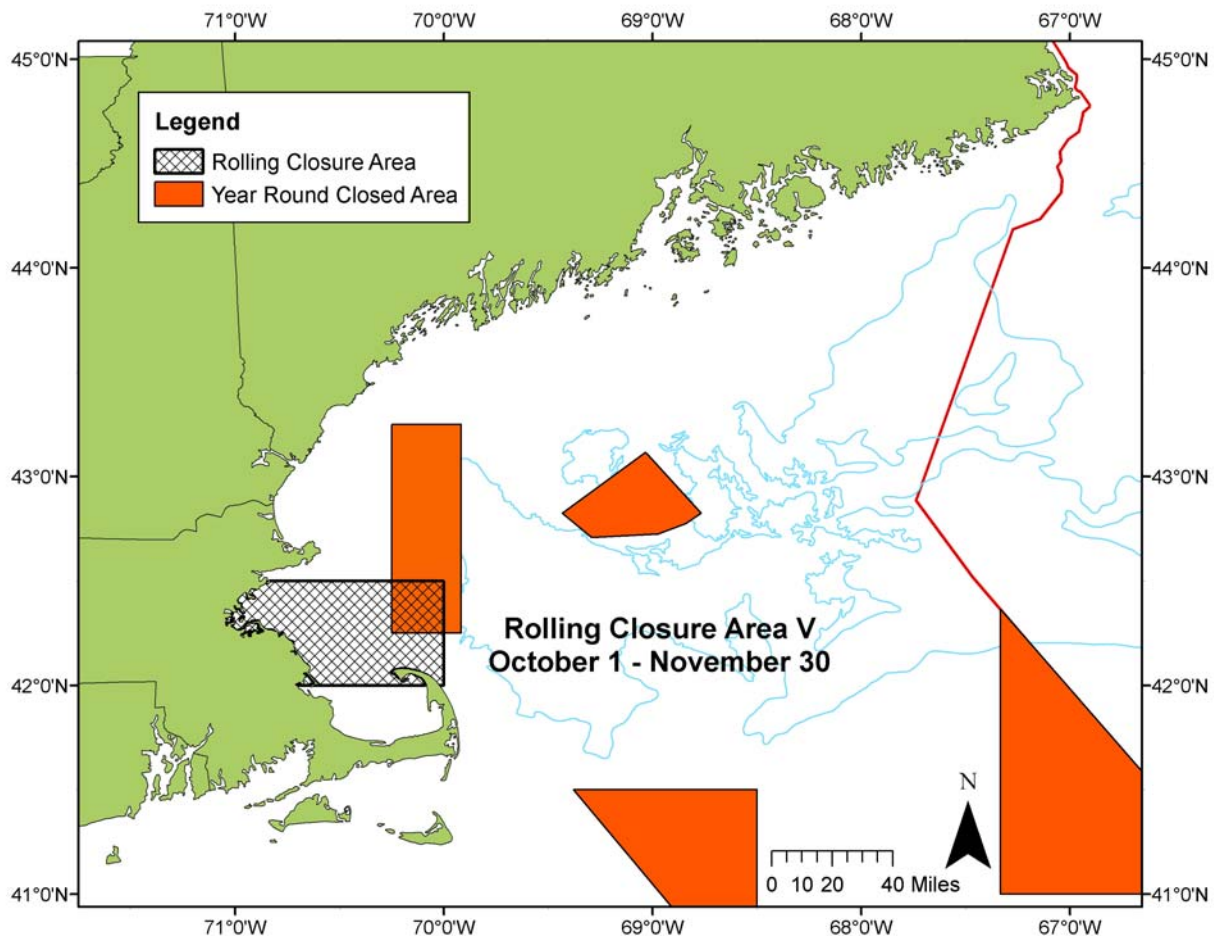
Rolling Closure Area IV

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM9	42° 30'	(1)
GM23	42° 30'	70° 00'
GM17	43° 30'	70° 00'
GM19	43° 30'	67° 32' or (2)
GM20	44° 00'	67° 21' or (2)
GM21	44° 00'	69° 00'
GM22	(3)	69° 00'
GM9	42° 30'	(1)

(1) Massachusetts shoreline.

(2) U.S. - Canada maritime boundary.

(3) Maine shoreline.



Rolling Closure Area V is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Rolling Closure Area V

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GM1	42° 00'	(1)
GM2	42° 00'	(2)
GM3	42° 00'	(3)
GM4	42° 00'	70° 00'
GM8	42° 30'	70° 00'
GM9	42° 30'	(1)
GM1	42° 00'	(1)

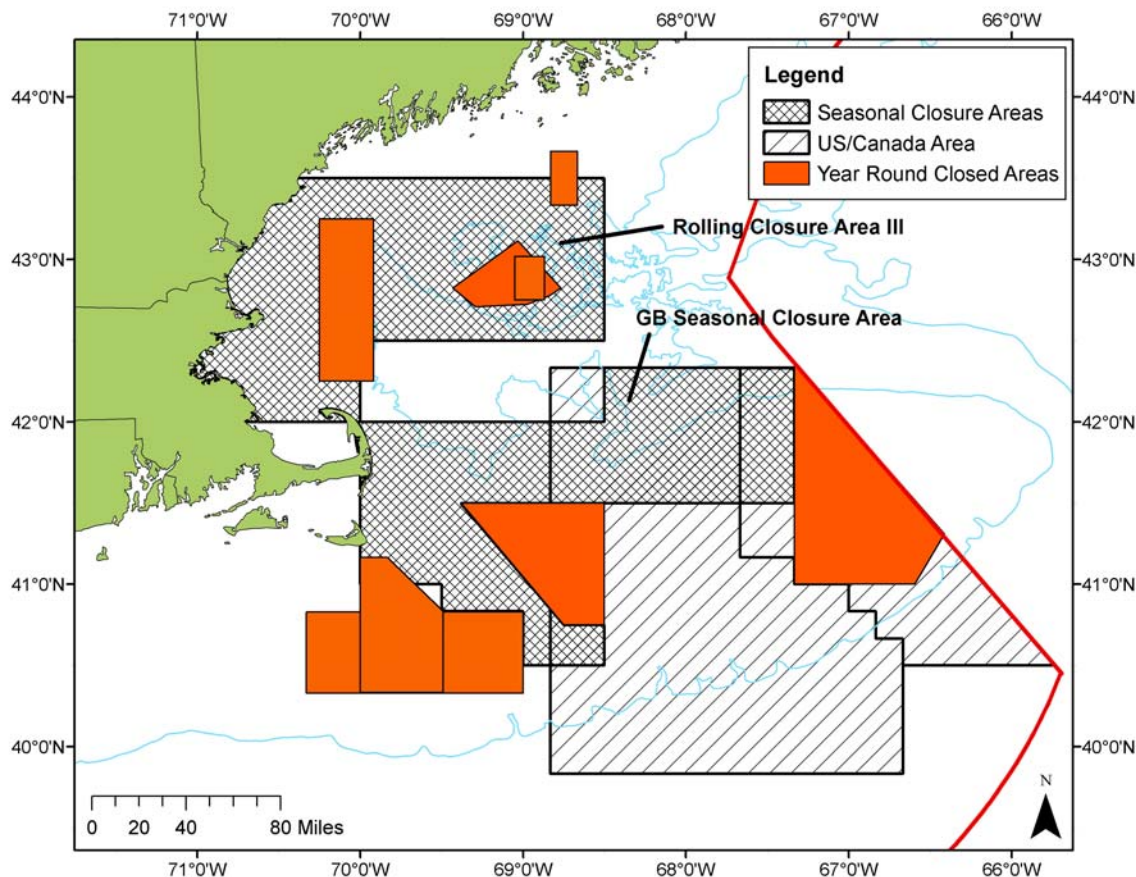
(1) Massachusetts shoreline.

(2) Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

(3) Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

GB SEASONAL CLOSURE AREA

The GB Seasonal Closure Area is closed from May 1 to May 31 each year



The GB Seasonal Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

GB Seasonal Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
GB1	42° 00'	(1)
GB2	42° 00'	68° 30'
GB3	42° 20'	68° 30'
GB4	42° 20'	67° 20'
GB5	41° 30'	67° 20'
CL1	41° 30'	69° 23'
CL2	40° 45'	68° 45'
CL3	40° 45'	68° 30'
GB6	40° 30'	68° 30'
GB7	40° 30'	69° 00'
G10	40° 50'	69° 00'
GB8	40° 50'	69° 30'
GB9	41° 00'	69° 30'
GB10	41° 00'	70° 00'
G12	(1)	70° 00'

(1) Northward to its intersection with the shoreline of Mainland Massachusetts.

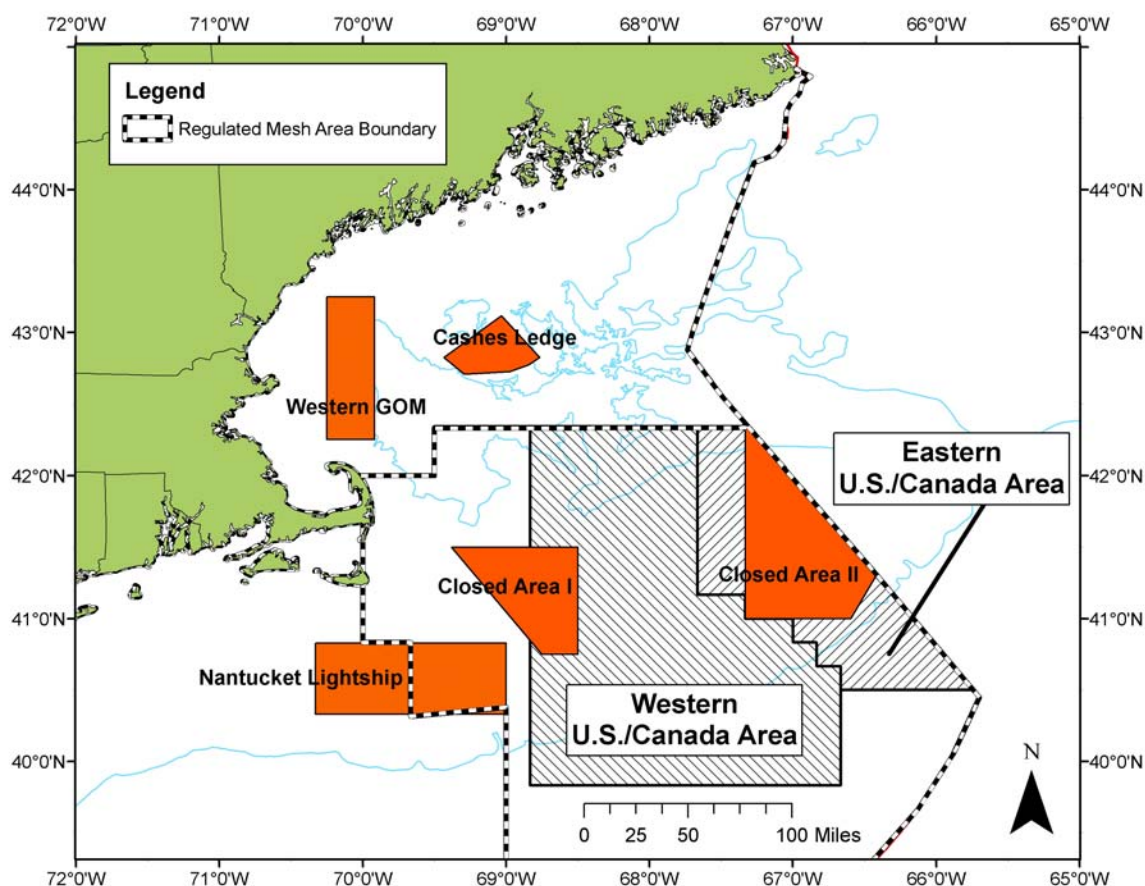
For the purposes of the GB Seasonal Closure Area only, vessels fishing with scallop dredge gear under a scallop DAS or in the Scallop Dredge Fishery Exemption Area are exempt, provided that the vessel uses a 10-inch twine top and complies with other applicable NE multispecies possession limits.

YEAR-ROUND GROUNDFISH CLOSURE AREAS

GOM

The Western GOM and Cashes Ledge Closure Areas depicted below are closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exemptions: Charter and party* or recreational vessels; vessels fishing with spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dip nets, stop nets, pound nets, pots and traps, purse seines, mid-water trawls, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, pelagic hook and line, pelagic longlines, single pelagic gillnets, and shrimp trawls (with properly configured grates).

*Charter and party vessels may fish in the Western GOM and Cashes Ledge Closure Areas provided they have a Letter of Authorization from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in these areas. A Charter/Party Letter of Authorization is valid from the date of enrollment until the end of the fishing year and is available by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9278.



The Western GOM Closure Area and the Cashes Ledge Closure Area, respectively, are defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Western GOM Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'
WGM2	42° 15'	69° 55'
WGM3	43° 15'	69° 55'
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'

Cashes Ledge Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CL1	43° 07'	69° 02'
CL2	42° 49.5'	68° 46'
CL3	42° 46.5'	68° 50.5'
CL4	42° 43.5'	68° 58.5'
CL5	42° 42.5'	69° 17.5'
CL6	42° 49.5'	69° 26'
CL1	43° 07'	69° 02'

GB AND SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Closed Area I (CA I) - CA I, unless further restricted under the EFH Closure Areas, is closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exceptions: Vessels fishing with or using pot gear designed to take lobsters or hagfish, pelagic hook and line gear, pelagic longline gear, harpoon gear, tuna purse seine, pelagic mid-water trawl gear*, and tuna purse seine gear, provided no regulated species are kept and no other gear capable of catching NE multispecies is on board; vessels participating in a NE multispecies Special Access Program (SAP) and vessels fishing for scallops in the CA I Access Area. CA I is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'
CI2	40° 45'	68° 45'
CI3	40° 45'	68° 30'
CI4	41° 30'	68° 30'
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'

Closed Area II (CA II) - CA II, unless further restricted under the EFH Closure Areas, is closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exceptions: Vessels fishing with or using pot gear designed to take lobsters or hagfish, pelagic hook and line gear, pelagic longline gear, harpoon gear, tuna purse seine outside the portion of CA II known as the Habitat of Particular Concern, Pelagic mid-water trawl gear*, provided no regulated species are kept and no other gear capable of catching NE multispecies is on board; and vessels fishing in a SAP. CA II is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA II		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CII1	41° 00'	67° 20'
CII2	41° 00'	66° 35.8' *
G5	41° 18.6'	66° 24.8' *
CII3	42° 22'	67° 20'
CII1	41° 00'	67° 20'

*The U.S.-Canada maritime boundary.

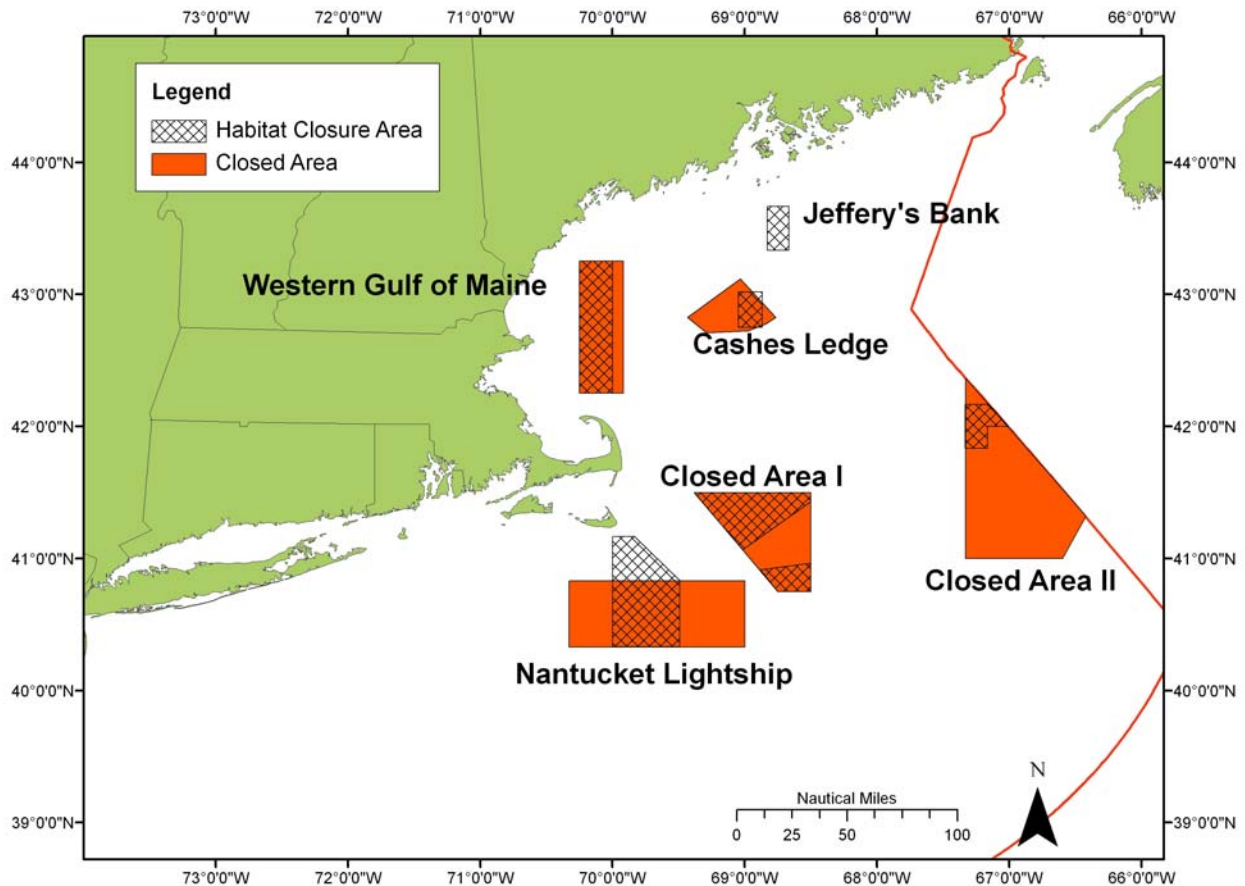
Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (NLCA) - NLCA, unless further restricted under the EFH Closure Areas, is closed year-round to all fishing vessels, with the following exceptions: Vessels fishing with or using pot gear designed to take lobsters or hagfish, pelagic hook and line gear, pelagic longline gear, tuna purse seine, harpoon gear, pelagic mid-water trawl gear*, surf clam/quahog dredge gear, provided no regulated species are kept and no other gear capable of catching NE multispecies is on board; scallop vessels fishing in the Nantucket Lightship Access Area and charter/ party or recreational vessels. Charter and party vessels must have a letter of authorization from the Regional Administrator to enter or fish in this area. A letter of authorization may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370 x6438. NLCA is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area		
Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
G10	40° 50'	69° 00'
CN1	40° 20'	69° 00'
CN2	40° 20'	70° 20'
CN3	40° 50'	70° 20'
G10	40° 50'	69° 00'

*Vessels using mid-water trawl gear must have on board a letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator. Mid-water trawl vessels are issued a letter of authorization for a minimum of 7 days. The vessel can be issued LOAs for the midwater trawl exempted fishery and the purse seine exempted fishery at the same time. A letter of authorization may be obtained by calling the Permit Office at 978-281-9370 x6438.

YEAR-ROUND EFH CLOSURES

EFH Closure Areas depicted below are closed year-round to all bottom-tending mobile gears. Bottom-tending mobile gear is defined as the following: Gear in contact with the ocean bottom, and towed from a vessel, which is moved through the water during fishing in order to capture fish, and includes otter trawls, beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine).



The Western GOM Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Western GOM Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'
WGM1	42° 15'	70° 15'
WGM5	42° 15'	70° 00'
WGM6	43° 15'	70° 00'
WGM4	43° 15'	70° 15'

The Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CLH1	43° 01'	69° 03'
CLH2	43° 01'	68° 52'
CLH3	42° 45'	68° 52'
CLH4	42° 45'	69° 03'
CLH1	43° 01'	69° 03'

The Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
JB1	43° 40'	68° 50'
JB2	43° 40'	68° 40'
JB3	43° 20'	68° 40'
JB4	43° 20'	68° 50'
JB1	43° 40'	68° 50'

The CA I North Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I North Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'
CI4	41° 30'	68° 30'
CIH1	41° 26'	68° 30'
CIH2	41° 04'	69° 01'
CI1	41° 30'	69° 23'

The CA I North Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA I South Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CIH3	40° 55'	68° 53'
CIH4	40° 58'	68° 30'
CI3	40° 45'	68° 30'
CI2	40° 45'	68° 45'
CIH3	40° 55'	68° 53'

The CA II Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

CA II Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'
CIH2	42° 10'	67° 9.3'
CIH3	42° 00'	67° 0.5'
CIH4	42° 00'	67° 10'
CIH5	41° 50'	67° 10'
CIH6	41° 50'	67° 20'
CIH1	42° 10'	67° 20'

The Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area is defined by straight lines connecting the following points in the order stated:

Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area

Point	N. Lat.	W. Long.
NLH1	41° 10'	70° 00'
NLH2	41° 10'	69° 50'
NLH3	40° 50'	69° 30'
NLH4	40° 20'	69° 30'
NLH5	40° 20'	70° 00'
NLH1	41° 10'	70° 00'

TRANSITING REGULATIONS

A vessel may transit CA I, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, the Cashes Ledge Closed Area, the Western GOM Closure Area, the GOM Rolling Closure Areas, the GB Seasonal Closure Area, and the EFH Closure Areas provided that its gear is stowed in accordance with the regulations summarized below.

A vessel may transit CA II for valid and compelling safety reasons or when lawfully fishing in the U.S./Canada Management Areas, provided fishing gear is stored in accordance with the regulations summarized below.

GEAR STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS

For gear to be considered legally stowed for the purpose of transiting a closed area, a vessel must meet one or more of the following requirements:

TRAWL GEAR

- A net stowed below deck: Provided it is located below the main working deck from which the net is deployed and retrieved; the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net; and it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference.
- A net stowed and lashed down on deck: Provided it is fan-folded (flaked) and bound around its circumference; it is securely fastened to the deck or rail of the vessel; and the towing wires, including the leg wires, are detached from the net.
- On-reel stowage for vessels transiting Seasonal Closure Areas: A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: The entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the doors; and no containment rope, codend tripping device, or other mechanism to close off the codend is attached to the codend.
- On-reel stowage for vessels transiting the Permanent Closure Areas: A net that is on a reel and is covered and secured, provided: The entire surface of the net is covered with canvas or other similar opaque material that is securely bound; the towing wires are detached from the net; and the codend is removed and stored below deck.

SCALLOP DREDGES

- The towing wire is detached from the scallop dredge, the towing wire is reeled up onto the winch, and the dredge is secured and covered so that it is rendered unusable for fishing.

HOOK GEAR

- All anchors and buoys are secured and all hook gear, including jigging machines, is covered.

SINK GILLNET GEAR

- All nets are covered with canvas or other similar material and lashed or otherwise securely fastened to the deck or rail, and all buoys larger than 6 inches (15.24 cm) in diameter, high flyers, and anchors are disconnected.